

Special Situations

Overview



Special situations require special attention. Work Zones, School Zones, and Rail-Highway Crossings each have unique signs and signals. While the type of situation varies, they all have one thing in common--drivers must be more cautious and watch for the signs, signals and pavement markings that indicate they are approaching these special situations. Watch out for the warning signs and remember to slow down and stop when required.

Work Zones



In any work zone along the road, major or minor, expect the unexpected! Normal speed limits are often reduced, traffic lanes may be changed, and people and large vehicles may be working on or near the road. The color orange is used exclusively in work zones, so if you see this color ahead, slow down, stay alert, and watch for any special instructions.

School Zones



Children may not be as attentive to traffic as adults are, and they are especially vulnerable pedestrians. As you approach a School Zone, and any area where there is a concentration of children, pay attention to special warning signs, signals and pavement markings. And be prepared to stop quickly.

Railroad Crossings



Did you know that you are 30 times more likely to be KILLED in a collision with a train than if you are in a collision with another car? Crashes at railroad crossings are likely to be the most severe of all. A train hitting a car is like a car running over a soda can. Because trains are large, fast moving, can't swerve to avoid a crash, and can't stop quickly, it is up to you to ALWAYS yield to a train.

Future



Efforts are being made every day to improve safety at rail-highway crossings. Research is currently underway to enhance the communication link between trains and vehicles which may be caught on the tracks. By using technology such as video and cellular telecommunications, engineers would have enough warning to stop the train before it reaches the crossing.